

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-47. (Canceled)

Claim 48. (New): A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

(a) a carrier; and

(b) a mannose-binding protein which is a lectin comprising a heterodimer of a first polypeptide and a second polypeptide, wherein the first polypeptide has a molecular weight of about 12-20kDa, and wherein the second polypeptide has a molecular weight of about 15-20kDa;

wherein the lectin can be obtained from a legume selected from the group consisting of *Phaseolus vulgaris*, *Dolichos lab lab*, and *Vigna senensis*.

Claim 49. (New): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 48, wherein the lectin is obtained from an extract of a plant selected from the group consisting of *Phaseolus vulgaris*, *Dolichos lab lab*, and *Vigna senensis*.

Claim 50. (New): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 48, wherein the lectin is capable of binding the flk2/flt3 receptor.

Claim 51. (New): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 48, wherein the lectin is capable of stimulating proliferation of NIH 3T3 fibroblasts expressing the flk2/flt3 receptor in an IL1-dependent manner.

Claim 52. (New): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 48, wherein the lectin is capable of preserving progenitor cells.

Claim 53. (New): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 52, wherein the progenitor cells are at least unipotent progenitor cells.

Claim 54. (New): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 52, wherein the progenitor cells are pluripotent progenitor cells.

Claim 55. (New): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 52, wherein the progenitor cells are totipotent progenitor cells.

Claim 56. (New): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 52, wherein the progenitor cells comprise hematopoietic progenitor cells.

Claim 57. (New): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 52, wherein the progenitor cells comprise human CD34⁺ cells.

Claim 58. (New): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 52, wherein the progenitor cells comprise murine fetal liver CD34⁺ cells.

Claim 59. (New): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 56, wherein the progenitor cells express the CD34 antigen.

Claim 60. (New): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 56, wherein the progenitor cells express the flk2/flt3 receptor.

Claim 61. (New): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 48, wherein the lectin is capable of preserving cells modified to express the flk2/flt3 receptor on their surface.

Claim 62. (New): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 52, wherein the progenitor cells are selected from the group consisting of nerve, muscle, skin, gut, bone, kidney, liver, pancreas or thymus progenitor cells.